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SUBJECT Rositzke Discusses Inman

SANFORD UNGAR: Harry Rositzke retired from the CIA in 1970, after 25 years in the agency. He says that a resignation at Inman's level can only be harmful to the CIA.

HARRY ROSITZKE: It's another blow against what, I suppose, the general opinion would be of the stability -- and since most people don't know what's going on inside, also further evidence of internal difficulties.

UNGAR: A blow to its stability, you mean, because of the fact that when you have an old-time professional intelligence person leaving, that means there must be something wrong?

ROSITZKE: That certainly is part of it. But I think the the whole position of the Director and the Deputy Director is an extremely odd one, and really hasn't worked out unless the deputy was a relatively weak person.

For many directors, the job was to be the head of all the government's intelligence community and since he, theoretically could not also run the agency, the deputy's job was to run the agency. Well, that, I think, has never really worked out because no director is going to sit up there and not have a large hand in certainly directing the activities of the deputy director of operations.

UNGAR: I know you've been out of the agency for some time, but what was the view, as far as you knew, within the CIA of Bobby Inman?

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2

ROSITZKE: The only reaction I've got from some of the senior people is that he's a highly competent administrator and intelligence man. He probably represents the best combination of that we've had among the military men who've been deputy director. So I would suspect that from inside the reaction would be rather distressing.

UNGAR: Does it make any difference in the public and to the country who's deputy director of the CIA?

ROSITZKE: I personally don't think it's ever made very much difference over the years because most years I've worked there, from Dulles on, the director, the number one man was so clearly the head of the outfit that his deputies, they could come and go without much impact, certainly, on what recognize as the operational end of CIA.

I think the impact on the public would be mainly well, there seems to be something wrong down there at CIA again.

UNGAR: How is Mr. Casey doing as director of the CIA? Has his reputation recovered; has his ability to operate recovered after the controversies of the last year?

ROSITZKE: Well, that I really don't know from the point of view of people within the agency itself. I think, again, externally, there have always been these odds and ends coming up on his past business life, the last of which, I guess, was cleared several weeks ago.

But the mere fact that he is a personality, complex, without an intelligence background, and also, I suppose you could say, the kind of talk that goes on in town about a conspicuous personality like him, this does the CIA no good for the simple reason that the agency should be as absolutely anonymous and apolitical as possible.

UNGAR: Of course he did have an intelligence background in the OSS during World War II.

ROSITZKE: Well, there's -- yeah. And I knew Bill in the old days. But running agents through the Lowlands, France, and Germany, which we were engaged in then, is a far cry from directing espionage operations in peacetime.

UNGAR: Harry Rositzke worked in the CIA for 25 years.